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EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, LEONID

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2,9-10,15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshiya (JP 05-075951).

As to claim 1, Yoshiya teaches method for driving display means having a predefined display area (paragraph 0001) comprising the steps of

providing a video signal for displaying a video image being smaller than said display area, so that one or more unused display sections remain on the display area (fig. 6, items L1-L2, paragraph 0004), and

driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, said at least one predetermined signal being varied in accordance with said video signal (fig. 6, items L1-L2, paragraphs 0007-0008),

wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed on the basis of one or more analysing areas within said display area, said one or more analysing areas directly abutting on said one or more unused areas (drawing 6, items L1-L2, paragraph 0024).

As to claim 9, Yoshiya teaches device for driving display means having a predefined display area (paragraph 0001) comprising:

determining means for determining one or more unused display sections remaining on the display area when driving display means with predetermined video signal (fig. 1, items 7-8, paragraphs 0012-0013), , and

driving means connected to said determining means for driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, said at least one predetermined signal being variable in accordance with said video signal (fig. 1, items 7-9, paragraphs 0012-0013 and fig. 6, items L1-L2, paragraphs 0007-0008), and

wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed on the basis of one or more analysing areas within said display area, said one or more analysing areas directly abutting on said one or more unused areas (drawing 6, items L1-L2, paragraph 0024).

As to claims 2,10 Yoshiya teaches unused sections include sidebars (fig.6, item L2).

As to claims 15-16 Yoshiya teaches driving means is capable of limiting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of the luminous elements of said display means (in the reference average level)(see constitution).

3. Claims 5-8,13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshiya as applied to claims 5,11 above, and further in view of Milch et al. (US 7,002,593 B2).

As to claims 5-6,13-14 Yoshiya teaches taking a medium brightness of said significant part for said at least one predetermined signal (constitution).

Yoshiya does not disclose at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas by applying a threshold to histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram.

Milch et al. teaches at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas by applying a threshold to histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram (col. 3, lines 10-32).

It would have been obvious to of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate teachings of Milch et al. into Yoshiya system in order to reduce power consumption (col. 1, lines 6-9 in Milch et al. reference).

As to claims 7-8 Yoshiya teaches driving means is capable of limiting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of the luminous elements of said display means (in the reference average level)(see constitution).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/13/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 5, last paragraph of Remark, Applicant's stated that Yoshiya teaches to drive the margine section with a signal computed on the basis of the whole video image and not of a part or parts of it abutting on the margine section. However, in paragraph 0024 Yoshiya stated: "...the brightness difference of the **boundary** of the image section and the margin section

become loose...” (drawing 6, items L1-L2, paragraph 0024). It is clear that the **boundary** of the image section and the margin section in Yoshiya reference abutting on the margine section.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Telephone inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonid Shapiro whose telephone number is 571-272-7683. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LS
02.27.08

/Richard Hjerpe/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629